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CLAIMS:

1. A method of blasting plural layers of material in a blast field including a first body of material comprising at least a first layer of material and a second body of material
5 comprising at least a second layer of material over the first body of material, the blast field having at least one free face at the level of the second body of material, the method comprising drilling blastholes in the blast field through the second body of material and, for at least some of the blastholes, at least into the first body of material, loading the blastholes with explosives and then firing the explosives in the blastholes in a single cycle
10 of drilling, loading and blasting at least the first and second bodies of material, wherein the first body of material is subjected to a stand-up blast in said single cycle and said second body of material is subjected to a throw blast in said single cycle whereby at least a substantial part of the second body of material is thrown clear of the blast field beyond the position of said at least one free face, and wherein, when the first and second bodies of
15 material are overburden and the throwblast in any selected blasthole precedes the stand-up blast in said blasthole, the delay between initiation of the throw and stand-up blasts in said blasthole is at least about 500 ms.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein blasting is of plural strata of material
20 including a first body of material comprising at least a first stratum of material and a second body of material comprising at least a stratum of overburden over the first body of material.
3. A method of blasting according to claim 1, wherein at least 15% of the second
25 body of material is thrown clear of the blast field in said single cycle.
4. A method of blasting according to claim 1, wherein at least 20% of the second body of material is thrown clear of the blast field in said single cycle.
- 30 5. A method of blasting according to claim 1, wherein at least 25% of the second body of material is thrown clear of the blast field in said single cycle.
6. A method of blasting according to claim 2, wherein the second body of material consists essentially of the stratum of overburden.

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